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Spy Agency Recruiter Not Formidable

CIA Man Says One of Three It Hires is Girl

By CLARENCE W. BAILEY

A reporter ran a red light the other day to arrive at a luncheon barely on time but with a sneaky, guilty feeling.

In fact he was at that moment unusually sensitive about law enforcement officers, although he tried to put it out of mind.

Napkin on lap, and already an old buddy of the guy on his right, he took a sip of coffee as his eyes glanced over to a lapel badge on his left that said "Central Intelligence Agency."

He just about choked.

Soon, though, he met the CIA guy and had a buddy on each side of him.

Richard L. Ryman, it turned out, is an "open" employe of the CIA who works out of Salt Lake City. His job is hiring people.

That's why he was there at that luncheon, which was part of the Rocky Mountain College Placement Association's annual convention at the Mountain Shadows Resort.

The association gets together once a year to compare notes on how best to hire bright college talent for business and industry. Apparently such spy work these days is an industry.

"About one out of three we hire is a girl," said Ryman, a tall, sandy-haired ex-football player.

"What we look for in people is, basically, maturity. Of course they have to have all the other qualifications, too, such as brains and scholastic record.

"Very little of the agency's work is of the kind of glamorous spy stuff you read about," Ryman said. "I'd say that 98 per cent of it is just surface operations in which information is simply gathered from talking with people, from newspapers, periodicals, and other obvious sources."

He said that maturity is a prime requisite because of the sometimes sensitive nature of overseas employment by the CIA.

"Our girls overseas are 'Girl Friday' types who might be asked to do anything from typing a letter to acting as hostess at a diplomatic type reception for dignitaries."

"Naturally they must not only have brains but must have discretion and good judgment."

Ryman said the CIA has herds of applicants of all ages and all types, including eager-beaver teen-agers who "volunteer to parachute into Russia for us." They are politely turned down.

Ryman, a family man, is an ex-FBI agent who spent eight years as one of J. Edgar Hoover's investigators.

He's about as down-to-earth an individual as you'd want to meet, and you'd probably take him for a successful salesman or business executive rather than a headhunter for employes of an intelligence agency.

How do college students get into the CIA?

Ryman said they simply

senior year when all the other industry recruiters are visiting campuses.

He said it doesn't make any particular difference what subject the student majored in during his four undergraduate years.

"We have hired just about every type of major you can name," Ryman said. "And

we have plenty of need for people trained in all of the sciences, as well as those trained in history and political science."

He stressed personality and maturity as qualifications. However, because of the variety of duties CIA girls are assigned, he always picks "good looking young women who will feel at home in the social environments of foreign capitals."

You know, between traffic cops and CIA agents, a guy has to really watch his step these days!

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